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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Rhodes
Serial Number: 10/642,855
Filed: August 18, 2003
Art Unit: 3753
Examiner: Hepperle, Stephen M.
Title: Two-Handle Faucet Design With Manifold About Faucet Handles

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

*OK to send
GMA*
Dear Sir:

Reconsideration of the objection to the drawings and the 35 USC §112 rejections is requested.

The drawings show only a valve plate as a generic part. As known, a handle turns a shaft and this valve plate moves relative to an opening in the elements 32. How such valving would occur is of no moment to the present invention. Several of the prior art references mentioned by the examiner include appropriate valving structure. A worker in this art would recognize how to provide appropriate structure.

Applicant's invention here is that there are passages 40 downstream of the plates, and that the handles are vertically beneath the spout. The present invention provides benefits as set forth in greater detail in the application and in particular the Background and Summary sections.

In sum, the 35 USC §112 rejections, and the objections to the drawings, should be withdrawn. The examiner's statement that the recitations to valving in the claims could be withdrawn and all of these objections and rejections would be overcome is not understood. While applicant would certainly consider any amendment that would narrow the issues, the